



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Geoffrey EGNAL et al.

Appl. No.: 10/705,896

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Atty. Docket No.: 37112-191810

Customer No.

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

For: ACTIVE CAMERA VIDEO-BASED SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS AND METHODS

Petition to Make Special Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.102

Mail Stop Petition

Honorable Commissioner for Patents

P. O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

It is hereby petitioned that the above-identified U.S. Patent Application be granted "Special" status under 37 C.F.R. § 1.102, as being applicable to countering terrorism, for the reasons that follow.

The current system deserves special consideration because it has numerous applications to homeland security, and specifically to defense against terrorism. Although the invention is widely applicable, and the patent application describes multiple applications, one intent of the invention was as a surveillance technology to detect unusual activity. In fact, one of Applicants' motivations in developing the invention was that the U.S. Customs Service requested the development of such technology, specifically to address counter-terrorism problems.

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There are several scenarios in which the present invention may contribute to countering terrorism, including the following:

- Alarm Systems. Many security personnel watch closed-circuit TV (CCTV) to detect potential terrorist threats, for example, at airports, military installations, factories, power plants, etc. Unfortunately, this approach is not effective; there is simply too much data for anyone to watch in real-time. The figure below illustrates a state-of-the-art video surveillance installation. Manually monitoring such a large number of video displays to satisfaction, over just a few hours, would require super-human vigilance. Moreover, periodic distractions due to other job duties could mean that many video feeds are regularly not monitored. The current invention solves this problem. A permanently attentive computer system detects unusual activities automatically, and thus addresses a critical problem with current counter-terrorism surveillance.



- Increased Resolution. Another problem with CCTV-based counter-terrorism is the prevalence of wide-angle cameras, derived from the need to cover large areas with as few

cameras as possible. The result is that potential threats may appear extremely small in the CCTV view, and personnel are able neither to recognize objects in the view nor to determine if the object is a potential threat. Even though some people have pan-tilt-zoom (PTZ) cameras to enable closer examination, humans are often too slow to take action to find the offending object. The current invention solves this problem. By automatically aiming a PTZ camera at an object of interest, the system combines the detection ability of wide-angle cameras with the high-resolution ability of PTZ cameras.

- 3D location. The invention can geo-locate interesting targets on a map, giving surveillance personnel critical information in mounting a response.

A check for the required fee of \$130.00 (37 C.F.R. § 1.17(h)) is attached. The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency (including if the check is not attached), or to credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 22-0261. A duplicate copy of this Petition is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures

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